

Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A method for using an interactive media application implemented at least partially on user equipment to substitute pause-time content in place of media that is paused, comprising:
 - storing a plurality of pause-time content in a storage on the user equipment local to a user;
 - providing the user with the ability to pause the media;
 - pausing the media;
 - local to the user, automatically determining which of the plurality of pause-time content stored in the storage to play while the media is paused;
 - automatically retrieving the determined pause-time content from the storage on the user equipment;
 - playing the automatically retrieved pause-time content while the media is paused; and
 - recording the media while the media is paused.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the media is real-time media.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the real-time media is near video-on-demand media.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising resuming play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.

6. (canceled)
7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media;
and
providing the user with the ability to fast-forward the media.
8. (canceled)
9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
recording the media as the media is playing; and
providing the user with the ability to rewind the media.
10. (original) The method of claim 1 the pause-time content is associated with the media that is paused.
11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the media is a television program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the television program.
12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the media is a music program and the pause-time content is associated with the music program.
13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the media has associated media data and wherein the interactive media application uses the content of the media data to substitute pause-time content that is associated with the media.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

15-17. (canceled)

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on a personal video recorder.

19. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on a personal video recorder, the method further comprising recording the media with the personal video recorder.

20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the media is real-time media, the method further comprising displaying the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the real-time media.

21. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user television equipment and wherein the media is television programming that is being delivered to the user television equipment in real-time, the method further comprising displaying the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused television programming and the real-time television programming in an overlay.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

23. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

25. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

26. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

27. (previously presented) An interactive media system that substitutes pause-time content in place of media that is paused, comprising user equipment having a storage for storing a plurality of pause-time content local to a user, the user equipment configured to:

provide the user with the ability to pause the media;

pause the media;

automatically determine which of the plurality of pause-time content to play while the media is paused;

automatically retrieve the determined pause-time content from the storage on the user equipment;

play the automatically retrieved pause-time content while the media is paused; and

record the media while the media is paused.

28. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to receive the media.

29. (original) The system of claim 28 wherein the media is real-time media.
30. (original) The system of claim 29 wherein the real-time media is near video-on-demand media.
31. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.
32. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to resume play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.
33. (canceled)
34. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:
provide the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media; and
provide the user with the ability to fast-forward the media.
35. (canceled)
36. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:
record the media as the media is playing; and
provide the user with the ability to rewind the media.
37. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the pause-time content is associated with the media that is paused.

38. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the media is a television program and the pause-time content is associated with the television program.

39. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the media is a music program and the pause-time content is associated with the music program.

40. (original) The system of claim 27 further comprising media data that is associated with the media, wherein the user equipment is further configured to use the content of the media data to substitute pause-time content that is associated with the media.

41. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein the user equipment is configured to receive the media data along with the media.

42. (original) The system of claim 40 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

43-46. (canceled)

47. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is user music equipment.

48. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment.

49. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is a personal video recorder.

50. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

receive the media in real-time;

play the media in real-time; and

display the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the media that is being received in real-time.

51. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment and wherein the user television equipment is further configured to display the amount of time that has lapsed between the paused media and the media that is being received in real-time in an overlay.

52. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

53. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the user equipment.

54. (original) The system of claim 53 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

55. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the user equipment.

56. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

57. (previously presented) A method for using an interactive media application to substitute pause-time content in place of media that is paused, wherein the pause-time content is other than the paused media, comprising:

providing a user with the ability to pause the media at any time while the media is playing;

pausing the media;

local to the user, determining targeted pause-time content to play while the media is paused based on at least one of monitored user interests and predetermined criteria defined by the user; and

playing the determined pause-time content by substituting the determined pause-time content in place of the media while the media is paused.

58. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is previously recorded media.

59. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment and wherein the media is video-on-demand media that is stored remote from the user equipment.

60. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment, the method further comprising storing the pause-time content locally at the user equipment.

61. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user equipment and wherein the pause-time content is stored remote from the user equipment, the method further comprising allowing the interactive media application to access the pause-time content on-demand.

62. (original) The method of claim 61 further comprising providing the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.

63. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising resuming play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.

64. (canceled)

65. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user with the ability to rewind and fast-forward the media.

66. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media has associated media data and wherein the interactive media application uses the content of the media data to substitute pause-time content that is associated with the media.

67. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

68. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the pause-time content is broadcast video.

69. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is a television program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the television program.

70. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is a music program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the music program.

71. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on a personal video recorder.

72. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the interactive media application is implemented on user television equipment, the method further comprising displaying an interactive overlay over the media that informs the user of options that are available.

73. (original) The method of claim 72 wherein the options that are available to the user are selected from the group consisting of rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward.

74. (original) The method of claim 57 wherein the media is near video-on-demand media, the method further comprising resuming play of the near video-on-demand media by playing a subsequent feed of the near video-on-demand media.

75. (original) The method of claim 74 further comprising displaying information while the near video-on-demand media is paused that displays the time remaining until the next feed of the near video-on-demand media will line up with the point at which the near video-on-demand media was paused.

76. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

77. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

78. (original) The method of claim 77 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a

musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

79. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

80. (original) The method of claim 57 further comprising providing the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

81. (previously presented) An interactive media system that substitutes pause-time content in place of media that is paused, wherein the pause-time content is other than the paused media, comprising user equipment configured to:

- provide a user with the ability to pause the media;
- pause the media;
- determine targeted pause-time content to play while the media is paused based on at least one of monitored user interests and predetermined criteria defined by the user;
- and
- play the determined pause-time content by substituting the determined pause-time content in place of the media while the media is paused.

82. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is previously recorded media.

83. (original) The system of claim 82 wherein the user equipment is further configured to store the previously recorded media.

84. (original) The system of claim 81 further comprising a remote facility at which the media is stored, wherein the user equipment is further configured to play the media by accessing the media on-demand from the remote facility.

85. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the remote facility is a media distribution facility.

86. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to store the pause-time content.

87. (previously presented) The system of claim 81 further comprising a remote facility at which the pause-time media is stored and wherein the user equipment is further configured to play the media by accessing the pause-time content on-demand from the remote facility.

88. (original) The system of claim 87 wherein the remote facility is a media distribution facility.

89. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to resume play of the paused media.

90. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to resume play of the media at substantially the same point at which the media was paused.

91. (canceled)

92. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to rewind and fast-forward the media.

93. (original) The system of claim 81 further comprising media data that is associated with the media, wherein the user equipment is further configured to use the content of the media data to substitute the pause-time content that is associated with the media.

94. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the pause-time content is selected from the group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

95. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the pause-time content is broadcast video.

96. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is a television program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the television program.

97. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is a music program and wherein the pause-time content is associated with the music program.

98. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user music equipment.

99. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment.

100. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is a personal video recorder.

101. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is user television equipment and wherein the user television equipment is further configured to display an interactive overlay over the media that informs the user of options that are available.

102. (original) The system of claim 101 wherein the options that are available to the user are selected from the group consisting of rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward.

103. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the media is near video-on-demand media and wherein the user equipment is further configured to resume play of the near video-on-demand media by playing a subsequent feed of the near video-on-demand media.

104. (original) The system of claim 103 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display information while the near video-on-demand media is paused that displays the time remaining until the next feed of the near video-on-demand media will line up with the point at which the near video-on-demand media was paused.

105. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with the ability to personalize the pause-time content.

106. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to select particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the user equipment.

107. (original) The system of claim 106 wherein the type of pause-time content is selected from a group consisting of an advertisement, a promotion, a trivia game, a musical selection, a graphic, an animation, a program summary, a textual description, and a Web site.

108. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to prevent particular types of pause-time content to be presented by the interactive media application.

109. (original) The system of claim 81 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user the ability to change the pause-time content that is playing.

110-123. (canceled)

124. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring user activity, wherein automatically determining which of the plurality of pause-time content comprises automatically determining which of the plurality of pause-time content based on the monitored user activity.

125. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, the method further comprising:

accessing a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel; and

determining a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel,

wherein automatically determining which of the plurality of pause-time content comprises determining pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program.

126. (previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the user equipment is further configured to monitor user activity, and wherein the pause-time content is selected based on the monitored user activity.

127. (previously presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

- access a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel;

- determine a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel; and

- determine which of the plurality of pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program.

128. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, the method further comprising:

- accessing a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel; and

- determining a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel,

- wherein determining pause-time content comprises playing pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program.

129. (previously presented) The system of claim 96, wherein the television program is provided on a particular channel, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

- access a database comprising channel information for available channels to identify the channel information for the particular channel;

- determine a genre associated with the television program from the channel information for the particular channel; and

- determine pause-time content associated with the genre of the television program while the media is paused.